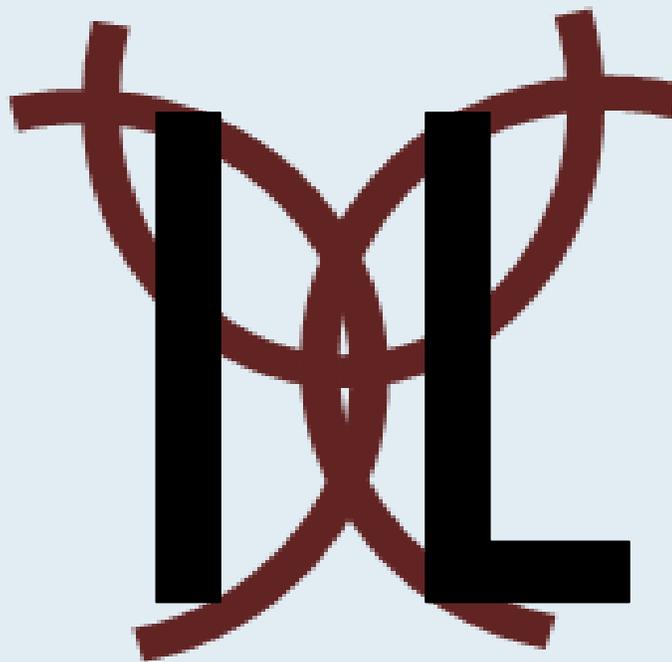


IMMANUEL LUTHERAN CHURCH

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER 2023



**1002 Powell Avenue
Erie PA 16505**

814-833-4062

CELEBRATING NEW LIFE, NEW BEGINNINGS!!



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Grace & Peace : From the Pastor's Desk

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you”
(1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

During Bible study this week we were talking about reaching out to God before we make major decisions. Marie Cozad, the author of “He Leads Me Along Life’s Journey”, the book we are using, discussed writing a poem, “Be Still”. The poem talks about trusting in God to calm the storms, and then when the storms came up in her life she didn’t remember to do so. We discussed prayer, spending time in God’s presence, and how we need to trust in God even when things aren’t easy.

One of our Bible study members asked if I’d heard the popular country song, “I Only Talk to God When I Need a Favor”. I hadn’t, so I looked it up and listened to it performed by JellyRoll, a rapper turned country singer. The lyrics begin “I only talk to God when I need a favor. And I only pray when I ain’t got a prayer.” (It has some mild curse words in it so if that offends you, I wouldn’t recommend listening to it.) Yet the song brought to mind how we tend to push prayer to the side, only using it as a last resort saying, “God, I can’t solve this, I need you to do it.”

I relayed a character in “The Stand” by Steven King that caught my attention. In one of the editions of the book, not all of them, the book opens with an old, bent over, Black woman who talked to God before she did anything... before she crossed the street to her mailbox, before she fed her chickens... you get the idea. She caused me to realize that I didn’t have that kind of relationship with God. Now, she may have been a little extreme, but what an example of living in a relationship with God; not going to God as a last resort but carrying on a constant conversation with God. It reminds me of Paul’s message to the Thessalonians, “Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you” (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18 New Revised Standard Version Updated Edition).

Pray without ceasing, carrying on a constant conversation with God may seem a bit preposterous, or at least impossible to do, but, do you listen to the radio in the background when you are driving or have the tv on when you are working around the house? Prayer can be the same, a background activity while you are carrying on with life. Give thanks to God, pray for the person who pops into your mind, praise God for the work that is being done in your life. Sitting at a red light? Instead of praying for it to change soon, pray for the person on the side of the road or the drivers around you, or pray for victims of human trafficking.

What about Paul’s words to rejoice always, to give thanks in all circumstances? That doesn’t mean that you give thanks for the circumstances, no matter how good or bad they may be, it means you give thanks that God is with you at all times, in all circumstances.

As always, if you’d like to talk about this or anything else on your mind, I am usually in the office Tuesdays 1 p.m. – 3 p.m., and Thursdays 9:30 a.m. – 2 p.m. The office phone number is 814-833-4062. I can also be reached on my cell at any time 724-557-2386. Please leave a message if I don’t answer. I’d like to sit with you for a while and talk about where God is in your life.

Grace and Peace,
Pastor Karen

You can find Pastor Karen’s
latest sermons in print on
our webpage here

<http://www.ilc-erie.org/worship-.html>
and the video is posted to our
[Facebook page](#)

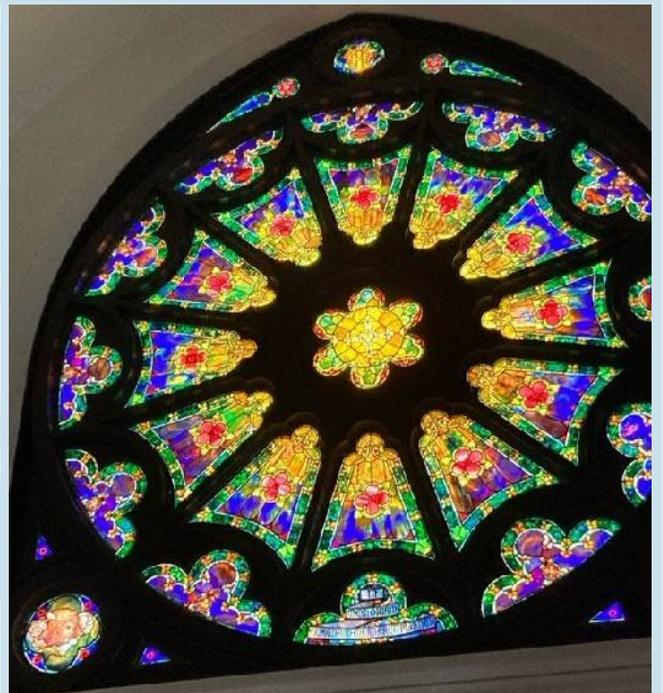
Tiffany Windows

Recently, members of Immanuel's congregation had the opportunity to visit St. John's Episcopal Church in Franklin, Pennsylvania. The group was lead on a tour through the iconic building by Pastor Shawn Clerkin, who spoke of St. John's history and how an out-of-control fire in 1900 nearly devastated the entire church. The building was completely burnt to the ground, with nothing left standing, but the bell tower. After five years without their beloved place of worship, the community came together in 1905 to rebuild St. John's Episcopal Church, larger and more spectacular than ever before.

The Tiffany Window's became their crowning jewel.







Election Day Book and Bake Sale

BAKE SALE



The annual Election Day Book and Bake Sale will take place on Tuesday, November 7, 2023 from 7:00am to 7:00pm. Donations of books are currently being accepted. Donations of baked goods may be dropped off the Monday prior to the sale. Please label baked goods with a price.

We encourage everyone to visit Immanuel during the sale to peruse, not only the content already available at our Permanent Entertainment Sale, but additional books and media that will be added during set up. The delicious treats are reason enough to stop by and say, "hello!"

We look forward to seeing everyone on Election Day.



BOOK SALE

Holy Trinity Church Thursday Night Dinner

Each year, twelve local Lutheran churches take turns hosting Thursday night dinner at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church, located at 643 West 17th street, Erie, PA. October was Immanuel Lutheran's month to serve.

On Thursday, October 26, Immanuel's volunteers prepared a menu of sloppy joes, pasta salad, applesauce, cupcakes and capri suns. Also, Halloween candy was placed on each table for an extra treat.

While it is always important to give back to the less fortunate, this time of year, we are reminded even more how blessed many of us are to simply have warm homes and meals to provide to our families.

Immanuel Lutheran and The Social Ministry Committee would like to thank all those who donated supplies for the meal, made dishes, volunteered at the dinner and those who continue to bless the local community with their generosity and kindness. Without you, many families would have gone without a warm meal that night.

Thank you!



West Millcreek Thanksgiving Food Drive



Each year, the West Millcreek Food Pantry puts together Thanksgiving meal kits, complete with a turkey, for 25-30 local, in-need families. The Food Pantry asks local churches and businesses to aid in their donation, by supplying one side dish to accompany the turkey.

This year, Immanuel Lutheran will support the West Millcreek Food Pantry's annual Thanksgiving Food Drive by providing stuffing. We hope to collect at least 30 boxes/bags of stuffing by November 6.

You will find a collection box near the Donation Station.



Coats for Kids

The Coats for Kids fundraiser for Inter-Church Ministries was an extreme success this year! In addition to the numerous gently-used donations, members of the congregation helped raise \$665 to purchase new winter coats, hats and gloves.



The Social Ministry would like to thank everyone who took their time and resources to give to this important cause. Your contributions will help to keep the local youth warm for years to come.

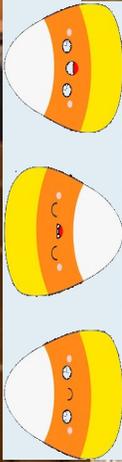
Immanuel Lutheran would like to offer a special Thank You to Concordia Lutheran Memorial Fund for their generous donation of \$500. Concordia's continued dedication to our ministry is unmatched. We are forever appreciative.



Trail of Treats

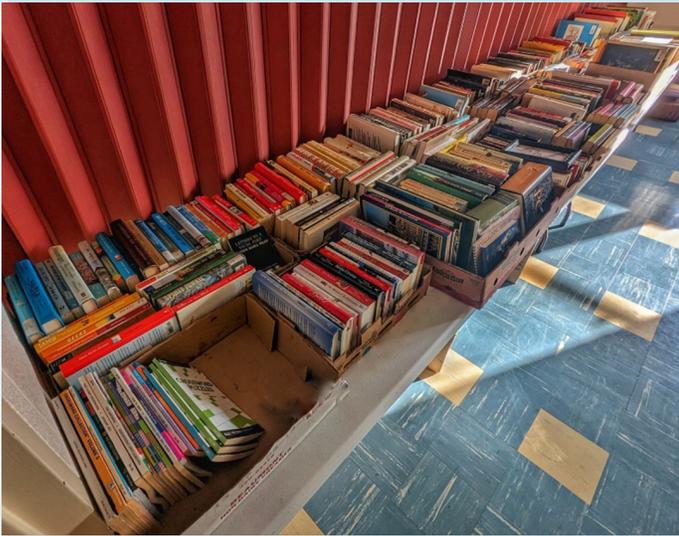
The Trail of Treats was a spooktacular time for all who attended. We handed treats out to over 150 children this year, a new record! Thank you to everyone who donated candy and time, helping to ensure the event went off without a hitch.





Permanent Entertainment Sale

Are you looking for an interesting new read? Wanting to add to your children's or grandchildren's library? Maybe, you'd like to learn a new hobby; drawing or writing, perhaps? Do crossword puzzles, word games or DVDs sound more intriguing to you? Whatever style of entertainment you prefer, chances are, Immanuel has something for you at our **NEW** Permanent Entertainment Sale.

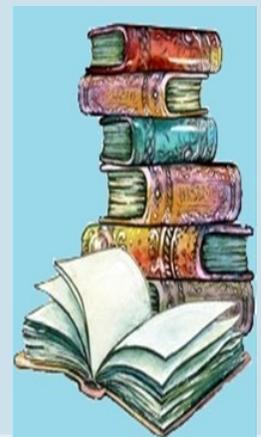
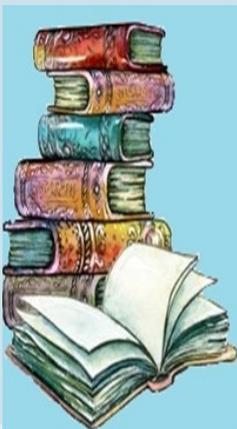


Thanks in large part to Bill & Debbie Redditt, and the team who helped clean 1028 Powell, many, many, *many* different forms of media were able to be rescued and cleaned up for resale. Rather than wait for Immanuel's annual Book and Bake Sale during Election Day, Cindy Eckman had the brilliant idea to assemble a continuous sale. She has taken it upon herself to layout and arrange items in an orderly fashion.

If you are interested in perusing the vast selection, you can find the sale located in the room directly across the hall from the Office. The Permanent Entertainment Sale will be open during Office Hours and Worship on Sundays.

Most books and DVDs are just \$1. There is a selection of large, hardback books in great condition selling for \$5. Many of these book specialize in the art and animation of Disney films. If you, or someone special, has a favorite Disney movie, chances are there's a book to dive even deeper into the tale.

Monies can be placed in the Shiny Red Box on the windowsill.



Worship & Music



ALTAR FLOWERS AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP

WE ARE ONCE AGAIN POSTING OUR ALTAR FLOWER AND SANCTUARY CANDLE SIGN-UP SHEETS IF YOU WOULD CARE TO SPONSOR EITHER OR BOTH IN HONOR OR IN MEMORY OF SOMEONE -- IT WILL BE NOTED IN OUR WORSHIP BULLETIN.

PLEASE NOTE THAT CATHY'S FLOWER SHOPPE, WHO HAS BEEN PROVIDING THE FLOWERS FOR US FOR MANY YEARS HAS HAD TO INCREASE PRICES SO FLOWERS WILL BE \$36/WK – SANCTUARY CANDLE REMAINS AT \$5/WK. WHEN PAYMENT IS MADE, PLEASE INCLUDE THIS NEW AMOUNT IN YOUR PAYMENT STARTING THIS MONTH! YOU ARE ALSO WELCOME TO BRING IN YOUR OWN PLANTS/ FLOWERS FROM YOUR GARDEN, ETC.

COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF EVERY MONTH.

Stop by the lounge after church service.



Church Choir is every Thursday at 7:15 pm!
New Members are encouraged and welcomed.
If you're interested, contact Bryan Timm

timmbryan@hotmail.com

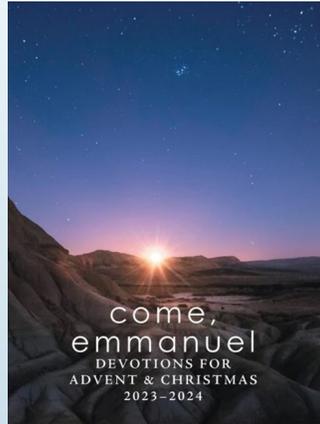
PRAYER

Please join us for worship each Sunday at 9:30 a.m. either indoors or in our drive-in services.

Christian Education

Advent Study with Pastor Karen

Beginning Thursday, November 29, 2023, you're invited to join Pastor Karen from 6:00-7:00 p.m. for an Advent Study. The book "Come Emmanuel," will be discussed, which offers daily devotions based on the O Antiphons, beginning Sunday December 3, 2023, and ending January 1, 2024.



During the study, participants will dive deeper into:

- Nov. 30: **O Wisdom**
(for daily devotions Dec. 3-7)
- Dec 7: **O Adonai/Lord**
(for daily devotions Dec. 8-12)
- Dec. 14: **O Root/Branch of Jesse**
(for daily devotions Dec. 13-17)
*Also: **O Key of David** (for daily devotions Dec.18-22)
- Dec. 21: **O Emmanuel**
(for daily devotions Dec. 23-27)
* On your own: **O Morning Star/Dayspring**
(for daily devotions Dec. 28- Jan. 1)

Books will be provided by Pastor Karen at the first study. Look for a sign-up sheet in the main hallway mid-November.



Throughout the year, Lutherlyn hosts a wide variety of both day and overnight programs. There are retreats and events for kids, youth, adults, and families.

For November:

11/4 - Saturday Safari: Saturday Safaris are a great way to spend a Saturday morning! They are designed and open for families of all sizes and shapes, youth groups, scout groups, and any interested parties. Dress to be outside. (Registration Required)

11/14-11/19 - Crafting Retreat: Come for a week/weekend designed to provide a stress free opportunity to complete some of those unfinished crafts you want to give as Christmas gifts. (Registration Required)

For mor information and to register visit:
<https://www.lutherlyn.com/events-retreats/>

Immanuel Lutheran is in need of new Church Council members!



To learn more about joining the Church Council, please contact

Debbie Redditt



Email: debbieredditt@gmail.com

Phone: (814) 449-1855





Please remember the members of Immanuel who are "shut in," or having some health challenges and cannot make it to service, you may want to offer them a ride, give them a friendly call, send them a card.

The current Shut-In Mailing List is available in the office.

KEEP IN PRAYER:

Janice Kreger
Julia – Cindy Geddes' Niece
MaryAnn Long and Russ Long
Penney Maloney
Denise Arnold and her sister, Lana Huhn
The Botwright family
Ian Byrne
Connie Cooper
Jim and Lorraine Hornaman
Kyle Husted
Carol and Gordon Ketchel
Patrick Lewis–friend of Sandy Kocur,
Sandy's cousin - Scott Farr
Sandy's close friend's son-in-law, John
Bishop Michael Lozano
Diane McGranor
Carole Rickrode
Bob and Sharon Roemer
All of our members & friends who are grieving;
Who are in nursing homes;
All who are ill at home

We pray for those in the military:

Scott Case– Navy, (C. Geddes nephew)
Christopher Peterson – Navy (Grandson of the late Agnes & Chuck Peterson – serving stateside now per an update from Ann Neimann).

If you are sick or in the hospital, please notify the church office.

If you would like home communion or a copy of our newsletter, please contact the office.

Member Update: Sharon Roemer is now a resident of Fairview Manor.

Mailing address: 900 Manchester Road, Fairview, PA 16415

Your prayers & cards are appreciated.

Creation Care with Eco-Friendly Wrapping

As Christmas approaches, here are some ideas for earth-friendly wrapping. Consider using alternatives to traditional wrapping, such as:

- Newspaper or brown paper rolls (kids can decorate with markers or Christmas card cut-outs)
- Reusable shopping bags (preferably cotton)
- Re-use gift bags (make it fun - see how many years you can use the same one)
- Recycled Christmas cards make great gift tags
- Wrap items in a t-shirt
- Wrap items in a tablecloth or blanket
- Instead of ribbon,
 - Use 100% cotton yarn (such as Sugar and Cream, available in many colors)
 - Use jute twine (100% biodegradable); add a fresh holly sprig for color
- Avoid shiny, glossy wrapping, as it is not recyclable
- If giving multiple gifts to a person/family, place them unwrapped in one (reusable) bag and have the recipient select one at a time. (No peeking inside first!)

Martin Luther, "God is wholly present in all creation, in every corner, behind you and before you." (LW 51:43)

The Green Team's purpose is to "raise awareness of and advocate for the care of creation". Our mission is to support and encourage creation care ministries, raise awareness, model creation care advocacy consistent with ELCA teachings in our faith communities and public life.

nwpasynodgreenteam@gmail.com

<https://www.northwesternpasynodelca.org/nwpa-green-team.html>

Date	Presider	Assistant	Lector
11/5/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Cindy Geddes	Cindy Geddes
11/12/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Bob Dorler	Barb Coughlin
11/19/23 9:30 AM	Kostur	Anita Byrne	Bob Dorler
11/26/23 9:30 AM.	Kostur	Stan Holsopple	Debbie Redditt



Altar Guild: Penny Maloney, Sue Pfeiffer and Sally Leubin

Counters: Claudia Skerlong and Debbie Madurski

Ushers: Ushers as assigned by B. Dorler

If you are unable to fulfill your commitment – please find an alternate & notify the church office.

Lectors:

Remember to
adjust
microphone
towards you &
speak into it
for all to hear.

We continue to offer our services indoor or via drive-in service so if you can't be with us in person in the church, join us in our parking lots or in the immediate vicinity of the church and tune to 93.7 on your FM dial each Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. You can also listen via speaker in our Nursery or Kindergarten Rooms.



Celebrations of November Life and Love

Birthdays

11/4 Marianne Kocur
11/7 Barbara Coughlin
11/7 Sally Leubin
11/7 Nicole Stewart
11/9 Holly Kocur
11/9 Rebekah Saylor Nau
11/11 Landry Winston
11/12 Judy Guthrie
11/14 Debra Madurski
11/22 David Mays
11/26 Bob Hauser
11/29 Jennifer Geddes Hall
11/29 Brian Redditt
11/30 Carolyn Dean



Wedding Anniversaries

11/19 Joseph & Robin Steger

11/30 Robert & Joanne Wagner



Capital Campaign - Boiler:

Funds for the boiler campaign currently show \$25,263.48 toward our goal of \$58,803.



Pennies for Poverty

collection is an ongoing effort in support of the Women of the ELCA – donations welcome in the Donation Center canister.



LITTLE FREE PANTRY AT IMMANUEL

**IF IN NEED – TAKE SOMETHING
IF YOU CAN SHARE - LEAVE SOMETHING**

Feel free to bring items to church office & we will make sure they get in the pantry for you.

November 2023



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	2 Church Choir 7:15 pm	3 AA 7:00 pm	4
5 All Saints Day 9:30 am Worship Quarter Sunday Coffee Hour Sunday School	6 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	7 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	8 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	9 Church Choir 7:15 pm	10 AA 7:00 pm	11
12 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	13 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	14 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	15 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	16 Church Choir 7:15 pm	17 AA 7:00 pm	18
19 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	20 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	21 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm Pastor Karen Bible Study 6:00pm	22 Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	23 Happy Thanksgiving	24 AA 7:00 pm	25
26 Christ the King 9:30 am Worship Sunday School	27 Quilters 9:30 am Flagship City Chorus 7 pm Flute Choir 7pm	28 AA Mtg. 7:30 pm	29 Pastor Karen Advent Study 6-7 p.m. Tops 9:00 am AA Mtg. 7:30pm	30 Church Choir 7:15pm		



Immanuel
Church Office
814-833-4062
Hours:
Monday and Wednesday
8:00am—1:00 pm.
immluthch@verizon.net

Staff

Pastor Karen Kostur 814-833-4062
or Emergency #: 724-557-2386
Pastor's Office Hours – Tues &
Thurs.9:30am-2:00pm

Church Caretaker: Wally Coughlin
Organist/Music Director: Bryan Timm
Admin. Ofc.: Delani Kinzig

Sunday School

Coord: Anita Byrne & Janice Kreger
Teachers: Anita Byrne & Pastor
Kostur

Congregation & Church Council Officers

Pres:Debbie Redditt 814-449-1855
VP:Bob Dorler 814-833-2719
Sec.:D. Madurski 814-774-3590
Fin. Sec.:C.Geddes 814-734-1286
Treasurer: Bill Redditt

Additional Council Members

Cindy Eckman, George Pfeiffer,
Sally Leubin, Cindy Geddes, Mary
Hauser



Church Council Committees

*We invite all members of Immanuel to join any of these committees
and/or offer your gifts where you can – many hands make light work!!
Council usually meets the 2nd Sunday of the month*



Check out our website and "FRIEND" us on [Facebook](#)
Did you miss church? Need to keep updated and want easy access to the
church calendar, newsletter or annual report?
Check out our website <http://www.ilc-erie.org/>

**WATCH FOR US ON FACEBOOK, GOERIE.COM, ERIE
NEWS NOW AND IN PRINT IN THE ERIE TIMES
NEWS**

Fellowship, Outreach & Growth

Council liaisons: Sally Leubin & Cindy Eckman
COFFEE HOUR 1ST SUNDAY OF THE MONTH
ONGOING COLLECTION FOR LITTLE FREE PANTRY
SOUP COOK BOOKET AVAILABLE

Finance

Council liaison: George Pfeiffer
ANNUAL AUDIT

Property

Council liaison: Bob Dorler Committee Chair: vacant
**FACILITY MAINTENANCE –OUTSIDE OUTLETS IN-
OPERABLE, RENTAL PROPERTY MAINTENANCE –
BATHROOM UPDATE POWELL AVE.**
ONGOING BOILER CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Stewardship

Council liaison: Cindy Geddes

Social Ministry Committee

Council liaison: Debbie Madurski – Committee chair: Debbie Madurski

Worship & Music

Council liaison: Debbie Redditt Chair: Sue Pfeiffer

W&M COMMITTEE MTG: To Be Announced
DRIVE-IN AND INDOOR WORSHIP SERVICES 9:30 A.M.